

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9859

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH ARMY REACTION TO LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY AND RESIGNATION OF THE NAVY MINISTER

REF: MADRID 2804 (NOTAL); MADRID 2845 (DTG 141715Z APR 77);
MADRID 2897 (NOTAL)

1. FURTHER INSIGHT INTO HIGH-LEVEL SPANISH ARMY POSTURE AT
THIS MOMENT IS PROVIDED BY A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CAPTAIN
GENERAL OF THE FIRST MILITARY REGION, ARMY LT GEN GOMEZ DE SALAZAR
AND CHIEF JUSMG/MAAG ON APR 16: GOMEZ DE SALAZAR HAD THIS TO SAY:
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A) THE ARMY'S POSITION DURING THIS PERIOD: THE ARMY IS
COMPLETELY LOYAL TO THE KING AND THE GOVT. "WHAT THE ARMY IS
SAYING IS COMMUNISM IS DANGEROUS, WATCH OUT. WE SUPPORT THE
GOVT COMPLETELY BUT WE REMEMBER THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS HORRORS.
WE DO NOT WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN." SPAIN KNOWS COMMUNISM
WELL, MUCH BETTER THAN FRANCE OR ITALY, FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE
SPAIN FOUGHT AND WON A LONG 3-YEAR STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM.

THE TERM EUROCOMMUNISM DOES NOT MEAN A THING; THE DIRECTION IS STILL COMING FROM MOSCOW.

B) THE RESIGNATION OF ADMIRAL PITA DE VEIGA: THIS ACTION WAS A REFLECTION OF PITA'S PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL FEELINGS AND WAS STRICTLY POLITICAL (AS OPPOSED TO MILITARY) IN NATURE. THE REAL FORCE IN EACH SERVICE TODAY IS THE CHIEF OF STAFF OR THE CNO AND THE MINISTER IS PURELY POLITICAL.

2. COMMENT: WHILE THIS PUTS SOMETHING OF A GLOSS ON THE TRUTH, IT IS NEVERTHELESS OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE THAT GOMEZ DE SALAZAR, WHOSE POSITION IS A KEY ONE, VOLUNTEERED SUCH COMMENTS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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